

Two New Molluscan Species

(Gastropoda : Muricidae)

from the Tropical Eastern Pacific

BY

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(1 Plate)

RECENT DREDGING IN DEEP WATER near Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, has yielded two previously undescribed species of the Muricidae. Both species were obtained in sufficient numbers, including living specimens, and are so distinctly different from recognized taxa, as to warrant immediate description.

Murexiella Clench & Pérez Farfante,
1945

Type Species: *Murex hidalgoi* Crosse, 1869, by OD

The small, stoutly fusiform shell possesses four or more varices with foliated spines connected by a laminated webbing. The siphonal canal is moderately broad and extended. The operculum is muricoid, with a sub-apical nucleus.

Murexiella mildredae Poorman, spec. nov.

Description: Shell small for the genus but massive in structural detail. Protoconch large, of 2½ whorls somewhat flattened on the sides, with the tip immersed, and terminating in a small varix. Teleoconch of 5 whorls. Axial sculpture begins with 8 small varices per whorl but de-

creases to 5 relatively high, rounded varices on the final adult turn. There are 3 strong spiral cords on each whorl except for the last. On that whorl, there are 6 on the body, 2 much smaller cords on the constricted region below the aperture, and 2 strong cords on the canal. All cords broadly rounded, narrower at the base than at the top, and overhanging the narrow interspaces. Cords marked by 3 or 4 incised spiral grooves and are nodose from incremental growth, especially along the edges. Each cord begins high up in the preceding hollow spine and descends sharply across the front of the varix. The cords grow stronger as they rise on the back of the next varix and terminate in blunt, hollow, recurved spines, strongest at the shoulder. Aperture nearly oval, slightly pointed posteriorly; but there is no apparent anal sulcus. Peristome completely erect, crenulated along the outer lip by the 6 spiral cords. Crenulations disappear a short distance within the aperture; there is no other dentition. Operculum muricoid, with a sub-basal nucleus. Suture constricted. Each varix extends diagonally across the shoulder like a buttress to the heavy spine, to grow small and disappear just before the suture. Each shoulder varix is marked at the crest by 3 weak spiral cords which show no trace on the smooth shoulder. The peristome of each growth stage extends across the shoulder in front of the varix and appears as an overlay on the shoulder of the next growth stage. The siphonal canal is long, narrowly open to the right, and distally recurved. Previous terminations of the canal form a diagonal line from the inner lip down the canal to the left.

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The color of the shell is pale waxen brown, shading to darker brown on the varices, and darkest on the spines. Spiral color banding (if present) is restricted to a single brown cord at the anterior end of the aperture.

Type Locality: 5 km S of Tetas de Cabra, Estero San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico; 27°54' N Lat., 111°05' W Long., 9 specimens dredged in 100 m on broken shell, small rock, and silt bottom.

Holotype: Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History no. 1913.

Dimensions of the holotype: Height 19.7 mm, maximum diameter 10.8 mm.

Paratypes: 1 paratype is at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, catalogue no. USNM 749091; 1 paratype is at the San Diego Natural History Museum, catalogue no. SDNHM TS 511; 3 paratypes are in the Carl & Laura Shy Collection, Westminster, California; 3 paratypes are in the Leroy & Forrest Poorman Collection.

The new species is not similar to any other recognized *Murexiella* from the Eastern Pacific fauna. While vaguely resembling the juvenile form of *M. laurae* Vokes, 1970a, it differs from that species in the number of varices on the adult whorl, the form of the spiral cords and spines, ornamentation on the shoulder, and details of coloration.

This lovely species is named in recognition of my sister, Mildred Poorman, a master teacher for 44 years, and one who has been a major influence in my life.

Carl & Laura Shy generously contributed the holotype (LACMNH no. 1913) and one paratype (SDNHM TS 511). This is gratefully acknowledged.

Pazinotus E. H. Vokes, 1970b

Type Species: *Eupleura stimpsonii* Dall, 1889, by OD

Small shells with axial ornamentation consisting of 4 to 7 varices formed by lamellar flanges. Spiral ornamentation moderate, terminating in strong, recurved varical spines. Aperture with strong dentition inside the outer lip. Siphonal canal open and short.

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Pazinotus advenus Poorman, spec. nov.

Description: Protoconch of 2 convex whorls followed by the teleoconch of 5 whorls. Suture constricted. There are 2 spiral cords on the spire and 4 on the body whorl. Cords are low and broad, stronger on the trailing edge of the varix and terminating in prominent, broadly open, recurved spines. The spine at the shoulder is the largest and is flexed toward the apex. Axial sculpture of 7 thin lamellae beginning at the suture and extending nearly to the end of the siphonal canal. Leading edge of the varix, especially within the hollow bases of the spines, frilled by several thin undulating layers of shell material. Entire surface spirally striated. The shell material is soft and much eroded on the spines and the apex. Aperture sub-oval, slightly pointed posteriorly. Operculum muricoid, with a basal nucleus. Outer lip flared, undulated at each strong cord, and slightly erect. Five strong denticles on a ridge of callus slightly below and within the outer lip. Lip adherent above, erect over the columella, and terminates as a flange with a deep chink between it and the fasciole. Canal short, open, recurved to the right, and distally reflected. Shell color light tawny brown with a darker brown band at the base of the body whorl and a second discontinuous band on the shoulder.

Type Locality: 5 km S of Tetas de Cabra, Estero San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico; 27°54' N Lat., 111°05' W Long.; 7 specimens dredged in 100 m on broken shell, small rock, and silt bottom.

Holotype: Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History no. 1914.

Dimensions of the holotype: Height 18.3 mm, maximum diameter 10.3 mm.

Explanation of Figures 1 to 4

Figures 1 and 2: Holotype of *Murexiella mildredae* Poorman, spec. nov.

Figures 3 and 4: Holotype of *Pazinotus advenus* Poorman, spec. nov.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4